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YOUNG MAN SEARCH NOW UNDER WAY

Jaycees To Give Winner Award At Special Banquet

The search is on for Macon County's outstanding young man of the year, who will be honored by the Franklin Jaycees at a special banquet here January 18.

Achievement, leadership, service to community, personal character, and ability will count heavily in the selection of the "Young Man of the Year", according to Jaycee Lewis Patton, project chairman.

Membership in the Jaycees is not a prerequisite to winning the award, Mr. Patton explained this week, and any man in the county who had not reached his 36th birthday by December 31 is eligible to be nominated.

The recipient of the award will be selected from those nominated by a secret three-man committee unconnected with the Jaycees, he said.

A Distinguished Service Award Key will be presented to the "Young Man of the Year" at the banquet. State Jaycee President Gene Ochseneiter, of Asheville, is tentatively slated as guest speaker and will make the presentation.

Persons wishing to nominate someone for the award are asked to contact Mr. Patton, who is serving as liaison between the Jaycees and the secret committee.

Jaycee J. L. West is in charge of arrangements for the banquet and President Vic Perry is handling the program.

Last year was the first time the award was made locally. The recipient was Dr. G. R. McSween, of Franklin.

MEANDERING ALONG MAIN STREET

At long last, The Press is beginning to figure out how to strum the funny bones of its readers. Last week's Christmas issue proves it.

Soon after the paper hit the street, Judge George B. Patton, home for the holidays before going down east to hold civil court, was duly noted in an up-town store in a stage of near hysteria—a copy of The Press hanging limply in his hand.

"What's the deal, Judge?" This brought more laughter and a sweeping gesture of the judge's hand across the front page of the paper.

"Look at this (more chuckling)," the judge chortled, pointing to the "Christmas card" of the 10 Press Santas across the bottom of the page. "I haven't seen anything as funny as this in years . . . you ought to run comics all the time (more chuckling). What's (still more) going to be next week's installment?"

Almost in hysterics ourselves, we answered: "We're thinking about running a back view of the same lineup."

We quietly inched out the door while the judge doubled over.

And anyway, who needs comics when human beings can draw that much laughter?

In the last-minute melee to get last week's issue out (members of the staff get their only vacation of the year during Christmas) a rather serious mistake crept into the paper. That was a little item reporting stores would be closed Thursday and Friday for the holidays. Obviously, it was a mistake because Thursday was Christmas Eve—the business boom day of the season. Slightly more than 100 papers of a total of 3,000 came off the press before the error was caught.

To clear this up (we're all . . .)

Meeting Slated Sunday Baptist Sunday School

A Baptist Sunday School group meeting is scheduled Sunday at the Liberty Baptist Church beginning at 2:30 p. m. It has been announced. Tom McManis will preside.

What Happened In Macon County 1953 Chronology

THIS YEAR

The following chronology debunks the hacknied comment, "Nothing ever happens here". While the chronology is not a complete work, it lists some of the more important happenings and events taking place in Macon County during 1953, as revealed by headlines in The Franklin Press.

JANUARY: The First Baptist Church abandoned plans for building at the intersection of Palmer and US 64 because of soggy ground and started construction of its new \$200,000 church on the site of the present church . . . William (Bill) Hartman, head backfield coach at the University of Georgia, was guest speaker at a Rotary-sponsored dinner honoring the Franklin High Panthers . . . the preliminary survey of the proposed re-routing of Wayah Road got under way . . . "Uncle Ham" Pelland, ex-slave, died at his home in the Rabbit Creek section at the age of 102 . . . Holly Springs tied for 5th place in a field of 70 in the W.N.C. Rural Community Development Contest.

FEBRUARY: Dr. G. R. McSween, Franklin chiropractor, was picked as Macon County's "Young Man of the Year" and was honored at a banquet by the Franklin Jaycees . . . Preliminary survey of the Jackson County link of US 23 to tie in with the Franklin project was started . . . A. B. Slagle, of Slagle Dairy Farm and Nantahala Creamery, was honored by the Henderson County Milk Producers Association as having made "an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the dairy industry in North Carolina." . . . Arthur V. Garrett was named jailer for the county, succeeding Calvin Roland, resigned . . . Franklin and Nantahala were defeated in the All-Boys Smoky Mountain Conference Basketball Tournament in Bryson City.

MARCH: William Katenbrink, Franklin dry goods merchant, was elected president of the local Chamber of Commerce . . . the Franklin High lassies won the Smoky Mountain Conference basketball crown . . . E. G. Crawford, Otto School principal, was named president of the Macon unit of the N. C. Education Association . . . Mrs. Helen Snyder was named worthy matron and Edd Whitaker, worthy patron, of the Nequassa Chapter, Order of Eastern Star . . . Bryant McClure was elected president of the Franklin Rotary Club . . . Mrs. Eloise G. Potts was elected worthy matron of the Highlands Chapter, Order of Eastern Star . . . The Rev. Robert E. Early was named president of the Highlands Rotary Club . . . Highlands formed a Junior Chamber of Commerce.

APRIL: Officials in Washington, D. C., ordered the consolidation of the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests, eliminating the Nantahala headquarters in Franklin . . . Jack Ragan was elected commander of the local V. F. W. post . . . a venire of 100 Macon citizens was drawn for the first degree murder trial of a Cherokee County woodcutter, Noah Dockery, charged with the slaying of Cherokee Sheriff Frank C. Crawford . . . a rural contest for Macon was perfected . . . a health center for the county was approved by the board of county commissioners; Dr. Edgar Angel offered free land for the center on Riverview Street . . . the "whammy", a bad omen for speeders, was introduced to the county by highway patrolmen . . . Zeb V. Meadows was reinstated as Franklin postmaster, following Navy service as a reservist in the Korean area . . . the new Macon Board of Education—J. C. Sorrells, John M. Archer, Jr., Claude W. Cabe, and A. A. Siler—was sworn in . . . construction on the new \$58,000 Chapel (Negro) School got under way . . . The Franklin F. F. A. livestock and dairy judging teams took first place over 14 other schools in the Nantahala Federation Livestock and Dairy Judging Contest . . . the nine-man Macon County Industrial Committee, to assist prospective industries in settling here, was set up.

MAY: W. C. Burrell and Wilton H. Cobb, mayors of Franklin and Highlands, respectively, were reelected to two-year terms in town elections . . . W. K. (Ken) Hooker was elected president of the Franklin Lions Club . . . Construction of the new St. Francis Catholic Chapel got under way . . . C. Banks Finger, Franklin attorney and charter member of the Franklin Jaycees, was elected vice-president of the Jaycee District 1, which embraces all western counties . . . Louis Potts, former sports editor of the Shelby Daily Star, was named town clerk of Highlands, succeeding V. W. McCall, who accepted a position with the Highlands Branch of the Jackson County Bank . . . The Macon County Board of Education voted to terminate the contract of Franklin principal R. G. Sutton, following a heated controversy over the principal and Coach Ralph McConnell . . . The county's first highway fatality of the year was recorded when T. L. Crisp, 27, of Franklin, died of injuries received in a wreck on the Franklin-Highlands highway . . . The Rev. A. Rufus Morgan, rector of the St. Agnes Episcopal Church, received the degree of Doctor of Sacred Theology in New York City . . . One hundred forty-one students were graduated from Macon's three high schools, Franklin, Highlands, and Nantahala.

JUNE: The Rev. John Buell, of Hixson, Tenn., accepted a call to the Highlands Baptist Church, succeeding the Rev. John C. Corbitt, who went to the Andrews church . . . In recognition for his active work with Boy Scouts John D. Alsop was made a "Tenderfoot Scout" at a special Rotary Club program . . . Frank B. Duncan, Ford dealer here since 1946, sold his interest in the agency to Charles A. Conley, Sr., his partner since 1945 . . . Excavation for the new \$37,500 Methodist annex was started . . . W. C. (Bill) Higdon, artificial breeding technician, placed third in a state-wide contest among technicians.

JULY: Consolidation of the Nantahala National Forest with

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High School Display Gets Attention



A Christmas exhibit commanding a lot of attention during the holidays was the one prepared by the students of Franklin High School. And the efforts that went into the exhibit were rewarded when the judges of the Franklin Garden Club's decorations contest gave it 1st place in the public institutions division.

Oak Grove's Live Nativity Scene Wins County Contest

Oak Grove's striking nativity scene, realistically enacted with live characters, was picked as the best display entered in the county-wide Christmas decorations contest sponsored during the holidays by the Nantahala Power and Light Company.

Runnersup were Carson and Clark's Chapel. As top winners in the contest, which drew entries from 10 communities in the rural development contest, the three split \$100; Oak Grove receiving \$56, Carson, \$30, and Clark's Chapel, \$20.

Oak Grove's winning entry was a dimly lit manger scene of the birth of Christ, brought vividly to life by real animals and a man and woman dressed as Joseph and Mary. The prize-winning Carson entry also was a nativity scene of life-size figures carrying out the theme of "The First Noel". Clark's Chapel's display was an open Bible rimmed with greenery with a star in the background.

The judges commended Oak Grove for carrying their nativity scene a step farther by using live people and animals and especially for keeping the exhibit open during the nights in the face of low temperatures and bad weather.

Not A Scratched Fender Reported

Macon County motorists made it through the Christmas holidays without so much as a scratched fender—an accomplishment that brought a deep sigh of relief and thanks from Highway Patrolman H. T. Ferguson.

"That's the kind of cooperation I would like to receive during the new year", the officer commented.

The county had three fatalities during 1953.

Thousands are estimated to have toured the 10 communities to view the exhibits after they were erected December 19. Several of the competing communities organized motorcades to visit other communities. Most of the communities disassembled their displays Thursday.

The judges devoted special comment to the other seven in the contest:

Mulberry: "Outstanding effort and obvious community-wide interest in preparing display."

Smithbridge: "Simplicity at its best in carrying out the theme 'Keep Christ in Christmas'."

Patton: "A unique display completely capturing an artistic mood."

Cartoogechaye: "A difficult scene artfully prepared."

Prentiss: "Santa's Workshop" as the old gentleman himself might have prepared it."

Holly Springs: "Excellent proportion to entire display and superior lighting."

Cowee: "Wide use of recordings of Christmas music to direct attention to distant display. Use of live cow added emphasis to scene."

Judging was based on three points—simplicity, originality, and attractiveness.

Some 300 Attend Christmas Program Given By Jaycees

An estimated 300 persons attended the Jaycee-sponsored Christmas program Wednesday night of last week at the Franklin Methodist Church. Admission was a gift for the needy. Jaycees distributed the gifts Christmas Eve. A special 33-voice choir from local churches appeared on the program.

Brings In \$300

The Christmas Cheer dime board operated by the Lions Club in downtown Franklin brought in more than \$300, according to club officers.

WINNERS OF EVENT LISTED

Here's Top Entries In Garden Club's Christmas Contest

Winners of the Franklin Garden Club's 5th annual Christmas decorations contest were announced yesterday by Mrs. A. A. Brooks, registration chairman.

First place in the door and window decorations feature went to Mr. and Mrs. Sam Gibson for their colorful arrangement of Santa Claus entering a decorated window of their home. Second place was awarded to Mrs. Margaret Dowdle and 3rd to Mr. and Mrs. Horace Nolen.

The joint scenes of Miss Gladys Sellers and Mr. and Mrs. Dan Bryson placed 1st in the outdoor decorations division with Mrs. W. A. Rogers winning 2nd and Mr. and Mrs. Hall Callahan, 3rd.

Judges for the contest, who were not disclosed, awarded honorable mentions to Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Mendenhall and Mr. and Mrs. Prelo Dryman for door and window decorations, and to Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Wilhide and Mr. and Mrs. Frank B. Duncan in the outdoor feature.

Franklin Frozen Foods, Inc., was judged 1st place in the commercial feature and Bryant Furniture Company was given 2nd. According to Mrs. Brooks, the judges decided to award only two prizes in this feature because only a limited number of business houses entered.

The painstaking efforts of Franklin High students in decorating the front of the school received 1st place among public institutions and schools.

Entries were judged December 23, and despite ample advance notice a number of displays were not prepared in time, Mrs. Brooks said. Still other homes failed to turn display lights on while judging was going on, she added.

MACON BRINGS NEW YEAR IN VERY QUIETLY

Watchnight Service Held At Franklin Methodist Church

Thursday at midnight, Macon County quietly joined the rest of a bewildered free world in tossing out the old year and ushering in a cocky little 1954, who seems to be headed for rapid maturity.

Preceding the exit of haggard old 1953, a New Year's watchnight service drew a large crowd at the Franklin Methodist Church. The hour-long worship and communion service was sponsored by the Macon sub-district Methodist Youth Fellowship and was conducted by the Rev. Doyle Freeman, the Rev. Albert Gordon, the Rev. Robert E. Early, the Rev. R. L. Poindexter, and the Rev. C. E. Murray. A business meeting of the M.Y.F. was held earlier in the evening.

Elsewhere in the county, the fateful stroke of midnight touched off a symphony of honking horns and illegal firecrackers. Many celebrated at the homes of friends, but the vast majority of citizens trotted off to bed and treated the night just like any other.

What 1954 has in store for Macon County is, of course, unknown. But folks swallowed the bad with the good during '53—and life, they say, must go on!

13 From Here On Boy Scout Committee

Thirteen Macon County men have been named to posts on the Smoky Mountain Boy Scout District Committee for 1954.

Three Franklinites have top-level posts on the committee. They are R. E. McKelvey, district chairman; John Edwards, vice-chairman; and H. H. Gnuse, Jr., district commissioner.

Other appointees include the Rev. C. E. Murray, of Franklin, chairman of advancement; B. B. Scott, of Franklin, chairman of camping and activities; Sid Carter, of Franklin, camping and activities committeeman; Mr. Gnuse, Mr. Scott, and Lewis Edwards, of Highlands, finance committeemen; Mack Whitaker, of Franklin, health and safety committeeman; Dr. A. Rufus Morgan, of Franklin, chairman of organization and extension; Dewey Hopper, of Highlands, and John Crawford, of Franklin, organization and extension committeemen; J. P. Brady, of Franklin, publicity committeeman; Tom Nelson, of Franklin, neighborhood commissioner; and Mr. Crawford, leadership and training committeeman.

The Smoky Mountain district embraces troops in Franklin, Sylva, Cherokee, Cullowhee, Bryson City, and Highlands.

Board Selects Tax Listers For Macon In 1954

Tax listers for 1954 in the county's 11 townships have been selected by the board of county commissioners.

They are as follows, by townships:

Franklin — Frank I. Murray and J. R. Morrison; Millshoal — Mr. and Mrs. Jack Cabe; Ellijay — Mrs. Leslie Young; Sugarfork — Raymond W. Wood; Highlands — Mrs. Fred Edwards; Flats — Earl Dryman; Smithbridge — C. S. Sams; Cartoogechaye — Laddie Crawford; Nantahala — Frank Baldwin; Burningtown — Floyd Ramsey; Cowee — Bob Rickman.

A schedule of dates and locations for listing taxes appears in an advertisement in this issue of The Press.

Reopening

Making up for a late start in September, the children of the Highlands School took a short vacation for Christmas and went back to work Wednesday.

The remaining 10 schools in the county will not reopen until Monday.



Oak Grove's use of live characters in its Christmas nativity scene gave the community 1st place in the decorations contest sponsored during the holidays by the Nantahala Power and Light Company. At left is pictured the manger scene of the winning display. Second place went to Carson's display (center

picture), a nativity scene carrying out the theme of "The First Noel". Clark's Chapel's Bible display (right) was awarded 3rd place. A total of 10 communities entered the contest and thousands are estimated to have toured the communities to view the displays.